

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/AU2003/001686

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int. Cl. ⁷: G06F 17/60

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
USPTO and WPAT. Keywords include: redempt+, redeem+, credit+, incentive, reward, discount, points, customer, member, client, vendor, retailer, provider, voucher, coupon, frequent flyer, fly-buys.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|---|-----------------------|
| X | US 2001/0037243 A1 (Rouston et al) 1 November 2001 - whole document, especially: figure 1; paragraph [0010] at page 1; paragraph [0035] at page 3; and paragraph [0043] at page 3. | 1 - 25 |
| Y | WO 02/41556 A2 (Milepoint inc) 23 May 2002 - whole document (when combined with 'X' document) | 1 - 25 |
| Y | US 2001/0039512 A1 (Nicholson) 8 November 2001 - whole document (when combined with 'X' document) | 1 - 25 |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C ☒ See patent family annex

- * Special categories of cited documents:
- | | |
|---|--|
| "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance | "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention |
| "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date | "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone |
| "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) | "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art |
| "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means | "&" document member of the same patent family |
| "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed | |

Date of the actual completion of the international search
19 January 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report
27 JAN 2004

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|--|-----------------------|
| Y | US 4949256 A (Humble) 14 August 1990 - whole document (when combined with 'X' document) | 1-25 |
| Y | WO 200237303 A2 (Loyalty Club Inc) 10 May 2002 - whole document (when combined with 'X' document) | 1-25 |

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This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

| Patent Document Cited in Search Report | | Patent Family Member | |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------|
| US 2001037243 | AU 53562/01 | WO 0182106 | |
| WO 0241556 | AU 25824/02 | US 2003040964 | |
| US 2001039512 | CA 2266983 | US 6332128 | US 2002040321 |
| US 4949256 | | | |
| WO 0237303 | AU 13729/02 | | |
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END OF ANNEX